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John Shaw

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H.R. Rep. No. 74, 33d Cong., 2nd Sess. (1855)

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JOHN SHAW.

[To accompany Senate bill No. 437.]

FEBRUARY 2, 1856.

Mr. MAXWELL, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred Senate bill No. 437, for the relief of John Shaw, report:

That at a special term of the circuit court of the United States, ordered by the War Department, at Prairie-du-Chien, in 1828, to try certain Winnebago Indians for the murder of citizens of the United States, John Shaw was employed as interpreter. His services were required by the government. He had to travel at least five hundred miles to attend said court, and was in attendance from the 25th of August to the 8th of September. The service was a difficult one, and no other person present was competent to perform it. He did it well and faithfully, and to the satisfaction of all parties concerned. The presiding judge (James Duane Doty) attests the difficulty and value of that service, and leaves no doubt upon the mind of your committee but that Mr. Shaw is entitled to some compensation therefor. In considering the amount to be allowed, that proposed by the Senate is not deemed unreasonable. To travel the distance he did, from near St. Louis to Prairie-du-Chien, was at that time a tedious, difficult, and expensive undertaking; and, when to this the important service performed is added, your committee think it but right and fair that he should have the thousand dollars estimated by Judge Doty to be a reasonable compensation.

Mr. Shaw has never been paid for this service, as is shown by the testimony from the department; and, though there has been long delay in presenting the application for payment, this is not deemed a sufficient reason for denying now a fair compensation, when the evidence is so clearly in his favor.

Your committee therefore recommend the passage of the Senate bill.